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IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims as currently presented and under consideration, are presented below for the Examiner's convenience and to comply with 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for modifying the surface of an aromatic polyester resin, film, fiber, yarn or fabric during manufacture comprising treating said polyester with a polyesterase enzyme wherein said polyesterase is derived from Pseudomonas spp. ~~which, in a PET UV and a MB assay having controls without the polyesterase enzyme, produces at least a 10% greater absorbance than an absorbance of the control,~~ the treatment occurring prior to the application of a finish and in the absence of surfactant ~~and~~ for a time and under conditions sufficient to modify the properties of said polyester, wherein said modified properties of said treated polyester are selected from the group consisting of pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance and luster properties of said polyester.

2. Cancelled

3. Cancelled

4. Cancelled

5. Cancelled

6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Cancelled)**

8. Cancelled

9. Cancelled

10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Cancelled)**

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12. **(Currently Amended)** A method for modifying the textile characteristics of a polyester article prior to the application of a finish to the article, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a polyesterase enzyme, wherein said polyesterase enzyme ~~wherein said polyesterase is derived from Pseudomonas spp. has at least 10% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without polyesterase enzyme in a PET UV assay and a MB assay;~~

(b) contacting said polyesterase enzyme with said polyester article under conditions and for a time suitable for said polyesterase to produce a modified polyester article; and

(c) producing a modified polyester article.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said polyester fiber, yarn or fabric is subsequently incorporated into a textile.

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. Cancelled

18. **(Original)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said treatment occurs in the presence of polypropylene glycol or glycerol.

19. Cancelled

20. Cancelled

21. **(Currently Amended)** A method for enzymatically modifying the characteristics of a unsoiled aromatic polyester textile comprising; treating said polyester, prior to the application of a finish, with a polyesterase enzyme derived from Pseudomonas ~~spp. which produces in a PET UV and a MB assay at least a 50% greater absorbance~~

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~~than an absorbance of a control without the polyesterase enzyme~~, the treatment for an time and under conditions to modify the textile properties of said polyester, wherein said modified textile properties of the treated polyester comprise the pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance or luster properties of said polyester.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein said polyesterase is derived from a *Pseudomonas mendocina* spp.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying the surface of an aromatic polyester resin, film, fiber, yarn or fabric comprising, (a) contacting said polyester, prior to the application of a finish, with a polyesterase enzyme derived from *Pseudomonas* spp.~~which produces in a PET UV and a MB assay at least a 50% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without the polyesterase enzyme~~, the treatment for a time and under conditions to modify the textile properties of said polyester, wherein said modified textile properties of the treated polyester comprise the pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance or luster properties of said polyester.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said polyesterase is derived from *Pseudomonas mendocina*.

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